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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-first session
11 June-6 July 2001
Agenda item 9
Adoption of the report of the Committee on the work of its forty-first session

Draft report

Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Programme questions: evaluation
(*Item 4 (b)*)

Future evaluation reports

1. At its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, on 11 and 12 June 2001, as part of its discussion of the evaluation reports submitted to it, the Committee discussed the evaluation process itself.

2. Representatives of the Secretary-General responded to the questions raised during the Committee's consideration of this issue.

Future topics for in-depth evaluation

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 11 June 2001, the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services, in his introduction of the evaluation item, suggested the following topics for in-depth evaluation by CPC at its forty-third session, in 2003: "Law of the sea", "Human rights" and "Social development".

Discussion

4. The view was expressed that evaluations carried out at the 10-year point or triennial reviews of the implementation of CPC recommendations are of little value to the Committee. The evaluation process should be an annual process, producing timely information by programme managers that should be fully covered in the budget fascicle submissions. This should include all necessary programmatic information, including the views of relevant participants in the programme. Annual

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evaluations would allow programme managers to provide clear objectives stating the necessity, or otherwise, of programmes. This information would be presented to CPC. CPC needs this information to allow it to review and assess the value and necessity, or otherwise, of a programme. The Committee would then make recommendations to the General Assembly on the relevance and effectiveness of a programme and on which a decision to provide funding would be made.

5. The view was expressed that there is a continued requirement for evaluations to show results of programmes, including the impact of their results on programme design, delivery and policy directives; that there is a greater requirement for monitoring and evaluation of programmes, particularly where this relates to national strategies; and that evaluation reports need to be succinct and easy to read, with less use of jargon and shorter narratives, and should also be referenced to programmatic activity in relation to objectives and accomplishments as related to the recommendations.

6. The role of the regional commissions needs to be expanded on, in particular the relationship between the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the regional commissions and other actors, either at United Nations Headquarters and/or in the field, and needs greater explanation with regard to policy development objective-setting and implementation.

7. The view was expressed that there should be a recommendation in all evaluation reports that the relevant specialized intergovernmental bodies should review evaluation reports prior to the CPC review and submit their observations on them to CPC. It was acknowledged that there were problems of timing with this proposal due to the timetable of meetings of these bodies.

8. The view was expressed that it is not appropriate for evaluation reports to contain recommendations on the source of funding for Secretariat activities, or such phrases as "within existing resources" or "if resources are available". The appropriate recommendation should address the issue of whether or not an activity is necessary, and leave decisions on funding to the budgetary process.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended that evaluation reports be submitted expeditiously to the relevant organs for their consideration.

10. The Committee reaffirmed the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation, and recommended that the General Assembly request that all necessary steps be taken to ensure fulfilment of the objectives of article 7 concerning evaluation, taking into account the role and competence of relevant intergovernmental bodies.

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the addition of the following two programmes to the schedule of in-depth evaluations (reports on those evaluations were to be submitted to the Committee at its forty-third session):

(a) Law of the sea;

(b) Social development.